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THE
HISTORY
OF THE
BLOCKADE AND SIEGE
OF
GIBRALTAR.

To which are added,
MEMOIRS
Of the Life and Military Services of
GENERAL ELLIOT.

BY
WALTER GORDON,
Late Soldier in the 73d Regiment, or Lord Macleod's
Highlanders.

ABERDEEN:

Printed for the Author.
M,DCC,LXXXIV.

THE
HISTORICAL
OF THE
BLOOMINGDALE STREET
OF
GIBRALTAR

To which is added

M. F. M. O. I. N. S.

OF THE HISTORY

GENERAL



WALTER GORDON

Is Soldier in the 1st Regiment of Lord Malleson's
Highlanders.

A. B. R. D. E. N. :

Printer for the Author.

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T O T H E
FARMERS in the GARIOCH,

These remarks on the late famous Siege of Gibraltar,
are humbly inscribed, by

WALTER GORDON,

Late Soldier in the 73d Regiment, or Lord M'Leod's Highlanders.

GENTLEMEN,

IT is but natural to men, who have escaped from great dangers, and that also with glory to themselves and their country, to wish that others should be acquainted with the difficulties they have surmounted, and the glory they have acquired. A common soldier, it is true, tho' he has an equal share of danger with the commander in chief, is far from having an equal share of the glory, nor has he any title to expect it. Perhaps it is upon the whole no material loss to the common soldier, that his name is buried with himself; for if his memory is not celebrated by posterity, neither is it branded with infamy by the invidious, nor the strife of parties. Yet I know not how it is, I have a desire, and I believe every one has the same, that it should be known I was at Gibraltar, and fought and conquered. Some will call this vanity; I cannot dive so deep into nature as to know whether it is vanity or not, or what it is; but I think my desire of appearing in print, proceeds rather from a desire of communicating a part of my own happiness to my worthy friends in the Garioch. No good man chooses to eat his morsel alone.

A

My

W. G.

My good friends, a morsel of my happiness I freely and frankly impart to you ; in the following pages you may feast most gorgeously. Heliogabalus, tho' with choice and costly dainties he stuffed his greedy paunch, never had such a feast as this ; such a siege never was since the world began ; such a brave defence never was made, and probably never again will be. Here you have the heroic deeds of a handful of men, often upon the point of being starved to death, continually exposed to showers of bullets and hellish bombs, more than once threatened with the merciless sword, bidding defiance to their enemies, with matchless courage rising above dangers, and at last crowned with victory.

That you may read this humble performance with greater pleasure, only suppose yourselves shut up in Fort Gibraltar ; suppose you hear the horrid din of cannon, the bursting of bombs, suppose you see the joint fleets of the enemy excluding every supply, and many thousands upon the neighbouring hills to enjoy the fight, and behold the massacre. And in order to give you a proper relish for the peace and safety you enjoy, suppose yourselves standing upon the beach in the time of a dreadful storm ; suppose you see a vessel tossed by the tempest ; every billow threatening destruction ; the unhappy crew expecting every moment to be swallowed up in the abyss ; the situation of the miserable crew is such as was the situation of the garrison, while you lived at ease and in safety, at a distance from danger.

Long may you live and enjoy the blessings of peace and security, to tell your children how Britons fought and conquered. As a testimony of my respect, I offer you these poor remarks, and while you read remember they are the remarks of a common soldier. W. G

BEFORE I give my observations on the late famous siege of Gibraltar, it may be proper briefly to mention its situation and strength. When this place was taken in the year 1704 by the joint fleets of the English and Dutch, under the command of Sir George Rook, it was considered as a trivial acquisition; however the Spaniards soon laid siege to it with such a formidable power, and shewed such eagerness to recover it, that the English began to think it a place of much greater importance than they at first imagined. All the attempts the Spaniards have made upon Gibraltar have hitherto proved unsuccessful; and let true British soldiers have a governor of the same abilities, courage and attention with Sir George Augustus Elliot, I may venture to affirm that the combined forces of the world will never be able to wrest it out of the hands of Britain. The possession of this place adds greatly to the lustre of the British Crown, tho' perhaps it adds very much also to the national expence. One cannot easily conceive what a shock it gives the pride of the haughty Spaniards, to have a British garrison in a place which is considered as the key of Spain; their pride has often led them to attempt its recovery, but haughty indolent pride will never be a match for the cool and steady courage of British soldiers. I have had opportunities of observing the insolent boasts of the Spaniards, and I have seen them sufficiently humbled; with contempt I reflect upon their pompous display of power, but with heart-felt joy I also reflect upon the cool and steady behaviour of the garrison.

GIBRALTAR is situated in 36. 21. North Latitude and 6. 15. West Longitude, is bounded on the North

by part of the province of Andalusia, on the East by the Mediterranean ; on the South by the Straits, and on the West by the Bay of Algaziers, which runs up the country as far as the Orange Grove and Point Negroe.

According to remarks made by engineers in the year 1769, the height of the hill at the rock guard is 1350 feet above the level of the sea, the height of the hill at the signal house is 1276 feet, and the circumference of the rock is 7 English miles one quarter and 240 yards. From the new mole head across the Bay to Algaziers is 3750 yards. The breadth of the Isthmus at the inundation near the Spanish lines is 1750 yards. The breadth of the Isthmus at the advance guard is 1200 yards. The breadth over the rock is 950 yards. The distance between Queen's Battery, Willis's and Fort Barbary is 1837 yards ; between Queen's Battery and Fort Philips 2104 yards. From the Old Mole head to Point Negroe 3660 yards. In a direct line from the Old Mole head to St. Roch 7450 yards.

Gibraltar is surrounded with a strong wall, except where the Rock is inaccessible ; the town is situated at the foot of Mount Calpe, and was at the commencement of the late siege inhabited by English, Scots, Irish, Jews, Moors, and Genoese. The town in its most flourishing state was neither large nor beautiful, but now it is reduced almost to a state of ruin. A more particular description of this unfortunate town may not be unacceptable to many readers. It is divided from the South part of the Fort by a wall extending from the signal house to the South Bastion. Its principal gates are Land Port, which leads to Spain ; Water Port, which leads to the Old Mole ; South Port, which leads to the South side of the Fort. The grand Parade or square, where the Town guard mounts, is about the centre of the town, and is 700 feet
from

from South port, 650 from Land port, 2034 feet from the South barracks, and 5300 from Europa point. The principal street runs from South port gate to Land port. As one enters South port gate, the grand store is upon his left hand, and the king's yard upon his right. He comes next to the Convent, or the governor's quarters, which is upon his left. Then he advances to the Spanish church, which is on his right hand. This church is adorned with altars, crosses, and images. Next he advances to the grand Parade. Opposite to the Spanish church, is the king's bastion, which is a new Battery, and has a Bomb Proof under it. Here part of the troops are quartered. Montague's Bastion is near Water Port. The Prince of Orange's Bastion is in a direct line between Montague's and king's Bastion. I must not omit mentioning the fountain, which is at the foot of the grand parade, and supplies the town with water. The water in Gibraltar is rain water, which is preserved in cisterns and reservoirs, and is conveyed in an aqueduct to the fountain. The English church is part of the convent. Besides the Spanish and English churches, there are several Jewish Synagogues. In going to the old castle there is an ascent of a hundred steps above the level of the streets.

Both the town and fort are supplied with provisions from England, Portugal and Barbary. The Spaniards have drawn a fortified line across the isthmus to prevent the garrison from having any intercourse with the country, notwithstanding which they carry on a clandestine trade, particularly in Tobacco, of which the Spaniards are exceedingly fond. Before the siege, when all communication with the fort was open, the country people brought in large supplies of bread, beef, mutton, pork, poultry, and fruits. The indignation of Britons rises against the meanness of these dastardly wretches. The love of money stifles in their breasts the love of their

their country, and leads them to supply the wants of a garrison, which is a standing monument of Spanish weakness.

Gibraltar is called the key of the Straits ; it has a commodious port, and commands the passage into the Mediterranean and Levant seas. But the road is neither safe against an enemy nor storms. The Bay is about 20 leagues in circumference. The Straits are 24 miles long and 15 broad ; through which sets a current from the Atlantic ocean into the Mediterranean, and for the stemming of it, a brisk gale is required.

Fort Gibraltar was blocked up by the Spaniards on the 16th of June 1779. They never could have had a more flattering prospect of success than at that time. Great Britain then carried on a very unequal dispute against the Americans, French, Spaniards, and the perfidious Dutch. Her manly and spirited efforts against all these enemies must astonish the world. I have with admiration read some descriptions of the wars carried on by the antient Romans, but my wonder at their successes entirely ceases, when I consider the undaunted conduct and almost incredible successes of Britain against her united and formidable enemies. Her fleets, always outnumbered, upon every occasion either dared their enemies to fight, or nobly kept them at bay. Unfading laurels will forever encircle the head of the Gallant Rodney. The unhappy fate of the brave Kempenfelt will be ever lamented by British Tars ; our armies and fleets being employed almost in every quarter, bravely supporting the dignity of the British arms, the Spaniards thought this was their time for recovering Gibraltar. With this view, and full of hopes, they sat down before it on 16th June 1779.

In the following pages, I offer to my readers the remarks I made during this important siege. Tho'

I cannot pretend to give learned observations, or write in a strain equal to the importance of my subject, yet I shall observe a sacred regard to truth, and do justice both to the garrison and the enemy. Nothing indeed was wanting on the side of Spain to ensure success. Their preparations amazed us. Their perseverance did them honour, and the firmness with which they bore their frequent losses was rather above their military character.

Some days after the communication was shut up, a Regiment of Spanish infantry encamped near the Orange Grove; in a few days after, several regiments more encamped near the same place, and soon after they began to erect Batteries bewixt Fort Philips and Fort Barbary. It seemed to be a rule with Governor Elliot, to allow the Spaniards to proceed almost unmolested untill they had nearly finished their Batteries; and then to demolish all they had done. The first heavy fire was not sent against the besiegers till the 11th of October, which greatly disconcerted them, and ruined all their former preparations.

The regiment in which I had the honour to serve, viz. the Second Battalion of the 73d, or Lord M'Leod's Highlanders, was embodied at Inverness, and embarked for England in March 1779. We arrived at Portsmouth on the 28th of May. In our passage, the Robert and Elizabeth transport run aground upon the Goodwin Sands, but the flowing of the tide, and a gentle breeze of wind, brought her off without any material damage. After being quartered in Hampshire for six weeks, we re-embarked at Portsmouth, and were landed at Plymouth; and after lying nineteen weeks in Maker camp, upon the 8th of December we embarked for Gibraltar, and sailed the 27th in Admiral Rodney's fleet. The fleet consisted of 27 sail of the line, 9 frigates,

gates, and 3 cutters, besides transports and merchant vessels. Upon the morning of the 8th of January 1780, we made prizes of two ships of the line, three frigates, two sloops, and fifteen trading vessels. January 16, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we engaged the Spanish fleet, obtained a compleat victory, and carried in our prizes to Gibraltar on January 29. I cannot do proper justice to the bravery of Admiral Rodney's fleet in the above engagement; the eagerness for battle shewn by the tars is almost incredible, the ideas of danger or death seem never to enter the hearts of British seamen; every one exerts himself as if the whole business depended upon his single arm, and the only fear they betray is lest the enemy should escape.

Upon our arrival at Gibraltar, we found the garrison reduced to great distress for want of provisions; their situation may be conceived, from attending to the prices of the necessaries of life at the time of our arrival, and the weekly allowance of each soldier. Bread then sold at ten pence per pound, beef two shillings per pound, mutton two shillings and sixpence, pork one shilling and eight pence; oatmeal ten pence per pound; a pair of fowls one guinea, a pair of chickens fifteen shillings, a turkey one pound ten shillings, a goose one pound five; butter three shillings per pound, and cheese two shillings and sixpence, and every thing in proportion. A soldier's weekly allowance was five pounds of bread, one pound of beef, one and a half pound of pork, two and a half ounces of butter, one and a half pint of pease, and one pint of oatmeal. Add to this scanty allowance, their almost continual watching and hard duty, and men can scarcely be imagined in a more distressed situation; the supply we brought in greatly relieved the garrison for some time.

Soon after our arrival, the governor found means to
procure

procure a considerable stock of dried fish, which was served out when beef and pork began to fall short. He also procured great quantities of rice and raisins, which with the dried fish and kidney beans, were of great service to the garrison during the blockade. On the 7th of June, the enemy sent into the harbour 9 fire ships, with a design to burn our shipping in the New Mole; but by the gallant behaviour and surprising intrepidity of our seamen, these fire ships were towed off without doing any damage.

About this time, the Spaniards were hastening their preparations for a siege by land, while their xebecs, gallies and gun-boats, which were stationed at Algaziers and the Orange Grove, commanded the Straits, so that no vessels could enter with provisions or ammunition: their gun and mortar boats were so numerous and kept so good a look out, that it was next to impossible for any ships bound for Gibraltar to escape. About the middle of September, provisions became so scarce, that the governor ordered the bakers to bake only 50 loaves each, for sale per day. A soldier's weekly allowance was then, 7 lb. of bread; $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb of beef. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb of pork; $2\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of butter; 1 pint of oatmeal; and one pint of pease or kidney beans. The wine man was ordered to sell no more than one gallon of each sort of liquor per day.

On the night of September 30th, the enemy burnt Bayside gardens; and next day began to build a battery about 500 yards from Land Port, which was afterwards known by the name of Mill Battery.

October 6th, The rainy season began: In summer there is no rain at Gibraltar, but in winter it rains exceedingly heavy. The rainy season is most favourable for gardening, for in summer the garden roots are scorched by the heat of the sun. In winter there is
B neither

neither frost nor snow ; the rain which falls during the winter is preserved in cisterns for summer use.

October 2d, The Spanish gun boats fired 7 shots into the garrison. which compliment was returned, by 50 shots from our shipping and batteries.

November 25th, Early in the morning, part of the Mill Battery was burnt. A very hot fire was kept up about this time, night and day, from our batteries.

On the night of the 29th, Sixty-two bomb shells were fired in the space of three hours by the garrison.

December 1st, The paving of the streets was begun to be taken up, in order to prevent the great destruction that might have been occasioned, by the falling and bursting of bombs on the pavement. Perhaps the bomb is the most hellish device, that has as yet been made for the destruction of mankind. I shall endeavour to describe it. It is a large shell of cast iron, having a great vent to receive the fuzee, which is made of wood ; if no defect is found in the globe, its cavity is filled with whole gun powder ; a little space of liberty is left, that when a fuzee or wooden tube is driven thro' the opening, and fastened with a cement made of quick-lime, ashes, brick dust, with steel filings in a glutinous water ; or of four parts of pitch, two of colophony, one of turpentine, and one of wax, the powder may not be bruised. This tube is filled with a combustible matter, made of two ounces of nitre, one of sulphur, and three of gun powder dust, well rammed : This fuzee set on fire, burns slowly till it reaches the gun powder, which goes off at once, bursting the shell to pieces with incredible violence. Care must be taken, that the fuzee be so proportioned, that the gun powder do not take fire before the shell arrives at the destined place, to prevent which, the fuzee is commonly wound round with a wet clammy thread.

December

December 17th, During last night, the garrison fired at the rate of 33 bombs in one hour.

In the month of January 1781, Several vessels found means,, notwithstanding the vigilance of the enemy, to enter the harbour and supply us with provisions.

February 4th, 1781. Oat meal sold at one shilling per pound; flour ditto; butter three shillings per pound; beef three shillings and two pence, and other things in proportion. Wine was the cheapest article at this time, being sold at six pence a bottle; the beer was at the exorbitant rate of one shilling and six pence a bottle. The prices of provisions are so often mentioned, in order to give my reader a just idea of the hardships to which the garrison was subjected.

March 1781. During this month a soldier's weekly allowance was five pounds of bread, thirteen ounces of beef, eighteen ounces of pork, two ounces and a half of butter, one pint of pease, and one pint of oatmeal. Veal and pork sold at three shillings a pound, beef and mutton three shillings and six pence a pound, a bullock's head without the tongue sold at fourteen shillings, a calf's head and feet at thirty two shillings and nine pence; butter and cheese sold at five shillings, and potatoes at three shillings a pound; a hen at a guinea; a duck one pound five shillings; a goose two pounds ten shillings; a turkey at three pounds twelve shillings; a couple of pigs eight days old at five pounds; an old pig cost from twenty to twenty five pounds; a common soldier could not purchase a pair of shoes under half a guinea. They who live in ease and affluence at home can form no idea of the hardships to which a common soldier is exposed in the time of war. But the situation of men reduced to such straits, and exposed to such continual toil and dangers, is beyond the powers of description. Did the rich and affluent only experience a little of the

hardships of a siege like that I am now describing, it would give them a double relish for their easy and luxurious life ; it would teach them to feel for others, it would teach them how inhumane it is to treat a soldier with contempt, and refuse him, as they often do, so much as shelter under their roofs.

About the end of March it was almost impossible to buy either bread or meal at shops ; what was sold was delivered at a window, the doors being kept shut on account of the mob, oat meal sold at one shilling and four pence a pound, and a small loaf about the size of a penny-loaf in Britain sold for a shilling.

April 12, 1781, The British fleet under the command of Admiral Darby, arrived with provisions and garrison stores. The enemy now seeing, that it was in vain to attempt starving the garrison, changed their plan, and giving up the blockade, began the siege at half past eleven in the forenoon, opening all their batteries at once, and firing at the rate of 180 bombs and shot in an hour ; their fire was chiefly directed against the town, which was soon reduced to a heap of ruins ; the falling of bombs and shot in the town, could be compared to nothing more properly, than a shower of hail-stones. The troops stationed in the town, and the inhabitants, removed as fast as possible to the South Fort ; the town's people also carried with them their most valuable effects, at the hazard of their lives, for whilst a man was endeavouring to save some part of his effects, perhaps a bomb fell in his house, burst, and buried the owner in ruins.

The foldiers and inhabitants who removed from the town, encamped near the South barracks ; water engines were employed to extinguish the fires, but had very little effect, for while they were applied to one house, three or four more were also set on fire, while they

ing, it they were engaged in saving that one. The Spanish church was set on fire, and 300 barrels of flour were taken out of it, and saved by the soldiers. Store-houses full of oil, rum, brandy and wine, were also set on fire, by the enemies bombs; the liquors and oil ran in streams along the streets, burning with amazing violence. Nothing was to be seen but dreadful ruin and destruction in every corner, confusion was strongly marked in every face, and death in various shapes presented itself to view. The crash of falling houses, the bursting of bombs, the horrid din of cannon, the groans of the wounded, the carcases of the dead, the shrieks of women, the cries of children, must have struck with terror and pity the stoutest heart! Let us pass from this shocking scene, and remark the precautions taken by the British soldiers for their future safety, and for the protection of the unhappy townsmen. Bomb proofs were immediately built for the guards, the gates of Water Port and Land Port were shut, the bridges drawn, the communication cut off, and the gateways built with sand bags: The out guards passed at the Sally ports.

In five weeks after the commencement of the siege, the enemy fired 32397 bombs and shot into the garrison.

April 28th, The enemy fired 593 bombs and 1064 shot: About this time, a new stock of provisions was landed at the New Mole and Rosea. The happy effects of this supply may be known from this, for on May 8th, biscuit bread was offered to sell at three half-pence a pound, and oatmeal at a penny a pound.

May 18th, Nine hundred shot, and 408 bomb shells, were fired from the Spanish lines; 306 shot and 97 shells, in an hour and a half, from their gun boats.

Nothing remarkable happened till the beginning of July, when the Repulse, Fortune and Vanguard, were stationed near the New Mole.

July

July 10th, The garrison artillery threw fifteen thirteen inch shells into the enemy's camp, near point Negroe, which is 3660 yards distant: Next day, the enemy threw a 26 pounder to the South Barracks, which is 3998 yards distant from their battery. Till the 7th of September, the enemy remained pretty quiet, firing but slowly and with little spirit, the inhabitants ventured now to return to the town, and took possession of some of the best houses that remained; but on September 7th, a very heavy fire was sent against us by the enemy.

September 19th, Their gun boats discharged 297 shot and shells into the garrison; at the same time, they maintained a dreadful firing from their lines.

September 21st, They discharged 16 or 18 guns at each volley.

October 2d, By the returns it was found, that during the last 46 days, 247 of the garrison soldiers had been either killed or wounded.

October 19th, One hundred and twelve bombs and shot, were fired from the enemy's gun boats, in the space of an hour.

October 22d, The enemy fired at the rate of 170 bombs and shot in an hour. They were pretty quiet till November 3, on which day their gun boats fired 246 shells and 395 shot, between the hours of 7 and 9 at night, the lines also keeping up a very heavy fire.

November 26th, In the evening the 12th regiment and Hardenburgh regiment of Hanoverians were relieved off guard and picquet, and the flank companies of each regiment. I was on picquet the same evening in the picquet guard, when a call came about eight o'clock for the grenadiers and light infantry's picquet of the 73d regiment to turn out. When I came to the door of the picquet room, C. B. of the royal artillery bid me adieu! being surprized at the strangeness of such an

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address, I asked him in haste, what he meant? he told me he did not know whether or not he should ever see me again. I then enquired if he knew where we were to be sent, or upon what business? says he, you are going to burn the Mill Battery. I took my leave of my friend, desired him if I did not return, to write my friends in Aberdeenshire, and recommended myself to the care of providence. At eleven at night we assembled at the Red-sands under arms, our whole body consisted only of 1300 men, besides a party of artillery, sailors, and artificers consisting of 500, the whole being under the command of General Ross. At three in the morning of the 27th November, when the moon was set we sallied out, advanced to the Mill Battery, beat the guards from their posts, spiked the mortars and guns, burnt the Battery, and returned to the fort in three quarters of an hour. Considering the danger of this attempt, the loss sustained was very small. One captain was wounded, seven rank and file killed, and twelve wounded. A Spanish deserter was our guide; he did his part exceedingly well, yet we could have looked on with pleasure, and seen the traitor to his country hanged on a gibbet. Tho' these rascals are necessary to their employers, and are well paid for their services, their very employers detest them, and every honest heart holds them in utter contempt.

December 2, Provisions become again very scarce and excessively high priced: beef sold at three shillings and nine pence a pound, pork at three shillings, mutton four shillings, and every thing in proportion: a soldier's allowance was very scanty.

January 1782, was begun with very hot firing from the enemy. The destruction of the town was now completed. The Spanish Church, which was a beautiful edifice, was entirely destroyed; the few houses which had escaped the former devastation, were now beat to the ground

ground, and not one stone left standing upon another. Gardens were plowed up by the bursting of bombs and the falling of balls, fruit trees tore up by the roots, the bodies of the dead tore up from their graves, and streets filled with the rains of houses.

January 29, 1782, Three cutters arrived from England: And in the month of February, several vessels came in from England, Portugal, and Algiers.

March 20th, Seven vessels arrived from England, with garrison stores.

March 24th, The 97th regiment landed and came into the fort.

May 7th, Nine vessels sailed for England from the garrison, three of which fell into the enemies hands, and were carried in next day to Algaziers. From the hurry that appeared amongst the enemy, we began to think they were hastening their preparations for a general assault, and for taking the fort by storm: We were informed by deserters, that they were soon to send against us, ten ships bomb proof with wool and cork; that these ships were to keep up an incessant fire untill a breach should be made in the walls, while the troops were to be landed in flat bottomed boats.

May 8th, The enemy pointed their fire against our barrier gate.

May 16th, Three vessels arrived from England. There were in the enemy's camp about this time 90000 troops.

June 6th, A Mattross was blown over the line wall at the King's Bastion, by the explosion of a gun.

June 11th, Princess Ann's Magazine at Willis's blew up, by which melancholy accident, 39 men were killed and wounded.

June 17th, Three ships of the line, and four frigates of the enemy, arrived from the West at the Orange Grove:

Grove : next day, seventy sail of their victualling ships arrived at the same place.

June 21, A new camp was pitched near the Queen's chair.

June 22, The enemy ceased firing.

June 25, Fourteen men were hanged in the Spanish camp.

June 28, Another new camp was pitched near the Queen's chair.

July 1, 1782, A soldier attempting to desert from the garrison, fell from the rock below the signal house, and was dashed to pieces. This day the Duke de Crillon viewed the Spanish lines, attended by three aide camps and a troop of light horse.

July 9, A serjeant deserted from the garrison ; he was found below the signal house, and was hanged upon the 24th.

July 25, Arrived from Leghorn the St Philip's Castle and General Murray cutter, which brought us the welcome news of Admiral Rodney's victory in the West Indies. At one o'clock all the ordnance was made to bear upon the enemy from the Royal Battery to Princess Carolina Battery, our new gun boats formed the line along the New Mole booms, and fired one round each, and were answered by all the shipping in the bay ; thus these expressions of joy answered also the purpose of distressing the enemy, who knew the cause of our joy, and severely felt the effects of our rejoicing. Every heart blessed the gallant Rodney ; a more sincere feu de joie was never observed.

July 26th, A company of Corsican volunteers landed from Leghorn.

August 6th, Another deserter from the enemy informed us again, that they were making great preparations for storming the fort, and that every man might

expect to be put to the sword, if we should not comply when summoned to surrender. These threats had no other effect, but to confirm our contempt of them.

August 19th, A present was sent from Duke de Crillon to Governour Elliot. At the same time it was announced to him that ten floating Batteries of a particular construction, and which could not fail of effecting a breach in the walls, were soon to pay us a dreadful visit. The Governour's answer was to this purpose ; " The Duke may send his paper ships to Gibraltar " when he pleases, my British boys shall give them a " hearty welcome."

August 21st, We burnt their Mahon Battery with fire balls and red hot shot. About this time the enemy erected a battery about 300 yards from Land Port. They fired from four in the afternoon till eight at night at a prodigious rate.

Upon the night of the 25th, embrasures were cut out in the new Spanish Battery.

August 29th, Arrived at the Orange grove five ships of the line and one frigate of the enemy's, from the west. This day the enemy towed out their floating batteries from the harbour of Algaziers ; Our shipping in the Rosea bay retreated within the New Mole booms, the seamen begin to strike their rigging, and take their guns ashore. A deserter comes into the garrison, who informs us that the enemy had eleven thousand men at work, the night their sixty four gun battery was built, and that as soon as the guns can be mounted, and the floating batteries manned, we might expect the greatest bombardment both by sea and land, that ever was directed against any garrison.

September 3d, Arrived at Algaziers, supposed to be from Toulon, three ships of the line and one frigate.

September 4th, The floating batteries removed from
Algaziers

Algaziers to the Orange Grove : Our shipping is scuttled, and the seamen encamped at Europa, the three guard ships are taken into the harbour and scuttled. And every possible preparation is making for the reception of the floating batteries.

September 8th, We opened all our batteries, bearing upon the enemy at seven in the morning, and fired hot shot and fire balls, by which their sixty four gun battery was set on fire ; the enemy began to return our fire at nine o'clock, and a very heavy cannonading continued on both sides till nine at night.

September 9th, At five in the morning the enemy opened all their batteries on us at once, firing at the rate of 190 bomb shells and shot in an hour. The bombardment from the new battery was so hot, that shells were bursting over our heads and dropping sixteen or eighteen at a time.

At two in the afternoon ten sail of the line came down from the Orange Grove, and fired upon the garrison till five next morning ; their design was to weary us out with fatigue before their grand assault was made. About half past five in the afternoon fourteen of the enemy's gun boats began to fire upon us, and continued for two hours

September 12th, This morning their gun boats fired very hot for the space of three hours.

This day fifteen new furnaces began to be built for heating balls to destroy the floating batteries which were expected to come against us every day. This day the combined fleets of France and Spain, consisting of thirty sail of the line, arrived in the bay.

September 13th, The grand attack was made. sanguine indeed were the hopes they entertained. The neighbouring hills were covered with multitudes of people to behold the destruction of the garrison, no

quarter was to be given, every man was to be put to the sword. Every hole and corner was to be searched, that none might escape their vengeance; for this purpose their floating batteries were well provided with flambeaux. The garrison, thus devoted to destruction, was attacked at eight in the morning, resolved to defend themselves to the last, and treating with just contempt the enemy's summons to surrender, and their menaces of certain death if they refused. — With amazing coolness they bid defiance to their enemies, and hurled back destruction in their faces; no pen, and much less mine, can do justice to the garrison on the eventful day. The behaviour also of the enemy entitles them to praise. They did all that brave men could do. They were not seen to flinch from any place of danger, but rather seemed with eagerness to court it.

At eight in the morning, the ten floating batteries, lying at the head of the bay, under the command of Don Moreno, began to get under sail: The Admiral's ship was placed about a thousand yards from the King's Bastion; the Talla Piedra, commanded by the Prince of Nassau, followed. The others were shortly after posted to the north and south of the Admiral, in four and a half fathoms of water, at small distances from each other, and immediately began to cannonade us. Our batteries opened as soon as they came before them; the firing was heavy on both sides; their lines and advanced batteries supported them, with a view of dividing our attention and our fire. It was intended, that several divisions of gun and mortar boats should succeed, so as to flank the garrison during the attack, and to direct their fire to such particular parts, as might most annoy those unemployed on the batteries of the garrison. But this measure could not be carried into execution, on
account

account of the rising of the wind and the swell of the sea. Other material obstacles also occurred, to prevent the sending of ships as had been formerly done, to make a diversion towards Europa Point; hence all our batteries that were unexposed to the enemy's fire, were employed without interruption against the floating batteries, into which shells, and round and grape shot, were fired without number, besides red hot balls 26 and 32 pounders. Tho' on the enemy's part, the fire was returned without intermission, doing great damage to the fort, yet the continual discharge of red hot balls, rendered all the precautions taken in the construction of the floating batteries of no effect; for the balls lodging in the sides of them, spread the fire throughout. In the afternoon, smoke was seen to issue from the upper part of the St. Pastora, or Admiral ship, and also from the upper ports of the Talla Piedra. Men were perceived to be using fire engines, and pouring water into the holes, endeavouring to extinguish the fire; this was found to be the case repeatedly during the day. The fire was frequently kept under, but a continuation of the same inconvenience rendered it impossible any longer to work the floating batteries.

By one in the morning, the two before mentioned floating batteries were in flames, and several more actually on fire, though not to so great a degree. Confusion was now plainly discovered amongst them, and the numerous rockets thrown from each ship, was a clear demonstration of their great distress: The two commanders in chief, Duke de Crillon and Don Lewis de Cordova, having been informed of their situation, gave immediate direction for sending all the boats and other small craft that could be collected, to the relief of the people in the floating batteries. Capt. Curtis of his Majesty's ship Brilliant, thought it proper to

to employ his gun boats ; he advanced with the whole, 12 in number, each carrying a 26, 24, or 18 pounder, and drew them up so as to flank the line of the enemy's ships, which were also at the same time annoyed extremely, by an excessive heavy and well directed fire from the garrison. The fire from our gun boats was kept up with great vigour and effect ; the boats of the enemy durst not approach, but abandoned the floating batteries, leaving them in a miserable situation, exposed to our fire and the merciless flames, which now baffled all their efforts to extinguish.

Day light now appeared, and two feluccas which had not yet escaped, endeavoured to get away. But a shot from one of our gun boats, having killed five men in one of them, they immediately submitted. The scene was now dreadful to a great degree. Numbers were crying from amidst the flames, many floating in the water on pieces of wood, others who were aboard the ships already kindled by the hot balls, expecting every moment to be blown in the air, all expressing by speech and gesture the deepest distress, and all imploring assistance, formed a spectacle of horror not easily conceived. Without opposition we directed our fire to point blank objects. We fired grape shot upon the enemy's boats which were employed in removing the men from the floating batteries, and the clearness of the night enabled us to direct our fire with certainty. Great numbers were killed on board the floating batteries and in the boats, several launches were sunk ; in one of these were 80 men, who were all drowned, except 12 and an officer, who were floating under our walls upon the wreck, and were picked up by our seamen.

Every exertion was now made for the relief of these unhappy men. And by these truly humane exertions

tions, thirteen officers and three hundred and thirty four men were saved. The blowing up of the ships while our boats were employed in the preservation of the men, rendered the undertaking extremely hazardous; But humanity is as natural to Britons, as courage; their enemies, when conquered, no longer are by them considered as enemies, but have an immediate title to their warmest pity; forgetting that we had been threatened with the sword, we felt for their distress, and the gallant Curtis hazarded his inestimable life in their deliverance; that hero who had manifested almost unequalled courage and military skill in defeating their cruel purposes, was active to a degree of fool-hardiness, if I may to express myself, in saving their lives. A large hole was beat in the bottom of his boat, his cockswain was killed, and two of his crew wounded, by pieces of timber falling on her, when one of the floating batteries blew up. By the same cause one of the gun boats was sunk, and another greatly damaged. Two of the enemy's bomb ketches were brought forward and continued to throw shells into the garrison, during the attack of the battering ships. They kept up a dreadful fire from their lines and advanced batteries, with above three hundred pieces of heavy ordnance, from the time the St Pastora began to get under sail to come against the garrison. A considerable detachment of seamen did duty as artillery upon our batteries, and greatly assisted us in the time of action. The immortal Elliot, on this decisive day, took his station upon the King's bastion. At this moment I see him, from my beloved gun I see him. With what amazing coolness does he issue his orders! His looks express settled contempt of their boasted batteries: His air truly majestic, the shot falling around him like hail stones; undiscomposed he stands, during the time of action, which was for many hours; he disdains refreshment: Oh! for the learning of

a clergyman, or the flights of a poet upon this occasion ! These united could not do him equal justice. The officers and seamen deserve immortal praise; even I whose name will soon sink in oblivion, a poor non-commissioned officer, exerted my utmost efforts.

The officers and men, all behaved like brave men, who were fighting for their lives and the glory of their country. The floating batteries were of different sizes, from 1400 to 600 tons burden: The enemy had collected from different ports, between 200 and 300 large boats, besides a vast number belonging to the vicinity, to be employed in carrying troops, or other services, connected with their operations against the fort.

Our loss during the action was only 97 killed and wounded; this is the more remarkable, because there were at least 40000 men employed against us. The whole strength of the garrison was not above 6050 effective men. Their efforts were all to little purpose, they made no other impression upon the fortifications, but only that the line wall was a little damaged.

It was impossible exactly to ascertain the numbers of the enemy lost, killed and wounded, upon this occasion; by the lost, I mean those blown up with the floating batteries, or drowned in endeavouring to escape from the flames. The following is perhaps not far from the truth:

Spanish troops, 1 officer killed, 9 wounded, and 6 missing; 37 rank and file killed, 189 wounded, and 86 prisoners.

Spanish navy, 3 officers killed, 13 wounded, 12 prisoners, and 2 missing; seamen and marines eighty prisoners.

French troops, 3 officers killed, 12 wounded, and 4 missing; 42 rank and file killed, 44 wounded, and 11 missing

missing; exclusive of the men who were in the two feluccas.

A list of the enemy's force in Gibraltar bay, at the time of their grand attack.

Spanish ships of 3 decks 2, of the line 28; French ships of 3 decks 5, of the line 9; total 44. Spanish ships from 50 to 60 guns 3; battering ships 10; floating battery 1; L. and ketches 5. Besides frigates, xebecs, many smaller cruizers, a great number of gun and mortar boats, and a multitude of other boats.

List of the Spanish battering ships burnt before Gibraltar, September 14.

Guns in use. Guns in reserve.

Pastora, or Admiral	21	10
Paula, Prima	21	10
Talla Piedra	21	10
El Rosario	19	10
St. Christoval	18	10
Prince Carlos	11	4
Paula, Secunda	9	4
St. Juan	9	4
Santa Anna	7	4
Los Dolores	6	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	142	70
	70	
	<hr/>	

Total of guns 212

The proportion of men on board them, was 36 for each of the guns in use, exclusive of officers and marines for working the ships: So that besides officers and marines, there were on board the battering ships, 5112 men.

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The prisoners taken out of the battering ships were landed at the New Mole, from whence they were conducted to Wind-mill Hill; they were committed to a Captain's guard of Corsican volunteers: A party was immediately dispatched to the town for camp equipage for their accommodation. The wounded were carried to the hospital, and treated with the greatest humanity.

A flag was taken from on board one of the battering ships, brought to the south barracks, and planted at the north end of the South Parade; where it remained 24 hours, no pleasing spectacle to the enemy.

The battering ships were of a particular construction, built with great skill, and at an amazing expence: On them the enemy rested their hopes of success; and indeed nothing but red hot balls could have destroyed them.

The wreck under our walls, formed a scene truly horrible: Dead bodies were floating upon the water, heads, legs, arms, wood, wool, cork, oakum, casks, and boxes, were washed ashore by the sea, and lay in heaps together: The battering ships were built partly of Cedar and partly of Mahogany. A house was built above the south shade, of the timber taken from among the wreck: And the General, as a trophy of victory, had some chairs and tables made of the Mahogany, which were remarkably beautiful on account of the various shades given the wood by the fire.

As I have had occasion so often to mention the Spanish gun boats, it may not be improper to describe them here.

They are constructed in the following manner: They are stout shallops from 60 to 80 feet keel; the waist is very low, like an Italian galley, the stern and head, which are constructed both alike, for the convenience of sailing

ailing or rowing either way without putting about, are both raised pretty high ; and they are fortified in the manner of vessels employed in the Greenland service ; at each end they have two long guns, 26 pounders, which are calculated to carry to a prodigious distance ; they are fixed on carriages of such construction, that by means of a rolling lever, they may be elevated to any height. In the center, some of them have beds for mortars ; they row with from 18 to 26 oars, at which slaves only are employed, who are all chained to the seat. The mast is in the mid ship, which is very tall, and carries on it a square sail only ; which last, however, they very seldom use, as their work is done in the eddies of the wind, where only their oars, on which they depend, are of service. Besides the rowers, in number 40, they have a captain, engineer, and about 20 artillery men. They are so still and secret in their attacks, that they are frequently along-side the works, and commence their bombardment, before they are discovered. When they are very close, they frequently use cannistered shot, 500 at a single loading, inclosed in a tin case.

September 14th, The enemy fired slowly till towards evening, then they began a very heavy fire ; the cannonading on both sides continued till October 10th, during which time we had two visits from their gun boats. Flags of truce frequently went between the Governour and Duke de Crillon ; 64 of the prisoners joined the British service. I have learned since my return to Scotland, that the fort was generally thought about this time to be in great danger of falling into the enemy's hands. Such a suspicion never entered our heads, who were defending it, and it seems to be the opinion of abler heads than mine, that these fears were ill ground ed.

Our only fear was, that our ammunition and provisions should run short; but this fear was soon removed by the arrival of Admiral Lord Howe, with a noble little fleet and plenty of ammunition, together with all things necessary. This affair deserves a particular description. The truth is, Admiral Lord Howe and his fleet were in much greater danger than the fort was, considering the vast superiority of the joint fleets of France and Spain; nothing but the most gallant behaviour, aided by a remarkable interference of providence, could have effected the design upon which he was sent.

On the afternoon of October 10th, it blew very fresh from the South West.

The enemy made several signals along the shore, and 2 frigates and a cutter arrived from the westward. Towards the following morning the gale encreased, and guns of distress were heard from the combined fleets in the bay. Just at the break of day, the St Michael of 72 guns, a Spanish ship commanded by Don Juan Moreno, a chief d'Escadre, and had on board about 650 men, was discovered very near the garrison, in a crippled state, and after having 2 men killed and 2 wounded from the fire of our batteries, she fell on shore near the South Bastion. As the day advanced, the fleet of the enemy appeared to have suffered considerably by the late gale. A ship of the line, and a frigate, were on shore near the Orange Grove. A French ship of the line lost her fore-mast and bow-sprit. A ship of three decks and another of the line were forced from their anchors, and ran to the eastward. We took possession of the St Michael as soon as possible, and landed the prisoners at Ragged Staff.

At three in the afternoon of the 11th, the signals made

made by the enemy, indicated the approach of the British fleet, commanded by Admiral Howe.

The *Latona* anchored in the bay soon after sun set : Only 4 of the convoy fetched into anchorage this night. A very favourable opportunity arrived for the store ships to have reached their destined anchorage without molestation from the enemy ; but, for want of timely attention to the circumstances of the navigation, pointed out in the instructions communicated by captain Curtis, only 4 of 31, which had kept company with the fleet on the passage, effected their purpose. The remainder were driven by the current, to the back of the rock, to which place the fleet also repaired. Upon the 13th the enemy put to sea, in order to interrupt the introduction of the remaining store ships, and having the wind at W. N. W. they bore down upon the British fleet off Fangerolle, in order of battle.

Upon sight of the fleet, standing to the southward, about 9 that night they appeared to haul the wind on the larboard tack. In the morning of the 14th, the fleet being to the southward of the enemy 6 or 7 leagues, and the wind changing soon after to the eastward, the opportunity was taken to pass such of the store ships as were then in the fleet, into the bay. On the night of the 18th, the rest of the store ships, which had been ordained to a special rendezvous with the *Buffalo*, on the sight of the enemy on the 13th, were anchored in Rosia bay. The troops embarked in the ships of war (viz. the 25th and 59th regiments,) together with a large supply of powder, being landed at the same time, and the wants of the garrison, amply provided for in every respect, Lord Howe proposed taking the advantage of the easterly wind which had prevailed for

2 or 3 preceeding days, immediately for returning through the Straits to the westward.

October 19th, At break of day, the combined force of the enemy was at that time at a little distance to the N. E. the fleet being at that time, so nearly betwixt Europa and Ceuta points, that there was not space to form in order of battle, on either tack. The British fleet repassed the straits followed by the enemy ; we lost sight of them at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and we afterwards were informed they engaged the same night, or at least within 2 days ; but as this is no part belonging to the history of Gibraltar, I shall add no more on the subject.

We kept our shot red hot in our furnaces from the day that they were first warmed, to the 20th instant.

The enemy still continued to fire very hot, and their gun and mortar boats greatly annoyed us. The Spanish prisoners were sent over to the Orange Grove by cartel. Prices of provisions continued very high. Beef and mutton 4 shillings and 6 pence per lib ; pork 2 shillings and 6 pence per pound ; butter, 8s. 9d. and milk sold at 6 pence per pint, which is a Scotch mutchkin, and a single hen egg 6 pence.

I suppose the half of my readers will not believe what I am going to tell, but I saw an officer pay 1 guinea for 15 pound weight of apples

To mention every thing in particular that happened in Gibraltar, my time cannot allow me, so I shall only mention the most extraordinary for the future.

During the siege, our working parties were employed both night and day, and often times we would have been 6 or 8 nights out of bed at once, and some times 12 or 14. A green spot of ground was thought a very good bed, with a stone or brick for a pillow ; the

heavens

heavens for a canopy, the music of mortars, and guns lulling us to sleep. The fuzees of shells served us for candles, and the bursting of shells served to awaken us.

Upon Christmas day, 1782, Our dinner was as good as the place could afford, our supper was bomb-shells mixed with cannon balls, spiced with powder, from the enemy's gun and mortar boats.

February 2d, The Spaniards brought intelligence of peace, or at least of a cessation of hostilities, which was received with inexpressible joy by every man, woman, and child, in the garrison. Soon after the Thetis frigate arrived from England, with a confirmation of the same, and ships and boats from different ports, innumerable, came in with all sorts of provisions.

Prices of provisions now fell so low, that before we left the garrison, I saw 80 lb. of oatmeal sold at one shilling. We now lived in peace and plenty, forgetting the hardships we had undergone, and the dangers we had been lately delivered from.

The killed and wounded in this garrison I cannot give an authentic account of, but you may believe it was very great, during a siege of 22 months and 10 days: but the enemy's loss, I am assured, was still greater.

The number of shot and shells fired by the enemy into Gibraltar, during the siege, amounted to 252143, viz. 183410 shot, 61762 shells, 6817 grenades, 154 rounds of grape. And we fired upon the Spaniards, during the blockade and siege, 200600 shells, shot, grenades, grape, &c.

March 31. This day Duke de Crillon, attended by his aid de camps, and a party of his horse guards, came into the garrison. At his entrance into the Sally port, he was saluted with 17 guns from our grand battery:

He

He was received in the streets with the greatest acclamations of joy. He visited several places of the garrison, viz. Willis's, the Royal Battery, and Inches Cave, (which is cut out of the rock) then was conducted to the convent, and dined with General Elliot. Upon the center of the table stood the Royal Family in waxen work; and upon the end of the table opposite to these, two Heroes stood, their effigies in waxen work. After dinner, Duke de Crillon visited the south part of the garrison: He spoke in French to the governor: He behaved with the greatest complaisance, holding his hat in his hand almost all the time he rode along. At eight o'clock he went out, and was saluted with 17 guns from the grand battery. Duke de Crillon is a man about 70 years of age, and stoops much; I cannot tell his size, for all the time I saw him, he was on horseback.

April 19th, Provisions were very low, a turkey sold at 2s. 6d. a hen 1s. white bread 3d. per lib. and a single hen egg 2d.

About this time, a party of workmen was employed in erecting stages, and covering the King's Bastion with canvas. The work was finished April 22d.

A Description of the Tent raised on the Top of the King's Bastion.

It was supported by 48 columns, 20 of which in the front were arched: Upon the top of each column, there was the representation of a bomb shell, with the fuzee burning. In the center, within the tent, was a stage 3 steps above the level of the floor. The inner side was lined with different colours, such as Royal, Union, and St. George flags; each arch was adorned with branches of

of myrtle, and branches curiously wrought, were entwined about each column.

Upon each side of the center arch near the top, was represented a lion. In entering upon the left was represented the arms of Great Britain, with the names of the Governour and Lieutenant Governour, and their titles ; a castle, and the Key of the Straits, with other curiosities too tedious to mention. Upon the top of the center arch there was a star : In the center of which was in large capital letters, George Augustus Elliot, Knight of the Bath.

April 23d, 1783, General Elliot was invested with the order of Knight of the Bath. At 5 o'clock in the morning the guards mounted. At 8, a detachment from each regiment, assembled on the Red Sand in 2 lines. At 9, the Governor came into the field, and after the general salute, made the following speech in front of the line.

GENTLEMEN,

“ I have assembled you together this day, in order
 “ that the officers and soldiers may receive, in the most
 “ public manner, an authentic declaration transmitted
 “ to me, by the Secretary of State, expressing the
 “ high sense his Majesty entertains of your meritorious
 “ conduct in the defence of this garrison : The King’s
 “ satisfaction upon the event was soon divulged to all
 “ the world, by his most gracious speech to both Houses
 “ of Parliament. The House of Lords, and the
 “ House of Commons not only made their suitable and
 “ respective address to the throne, but have severally
 “ enjoined me to communicate to you their unanimous
 “ thanks by the following resolutions.

Friday December 13, 1782. “ Resolved, nem. con.
 “ By the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament
 “ assembled : That the thanks of this House be given

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“ to

“ to the officers, soldiers and sailors lately employed in
 “ the defence of Gibraltar.

House of Commons, Decr. 12, 1782. Resolved, nem. con.

“ That the thanks of this House be given to the
 “ officers, soldiers, and sailors, lately employed in the
 “ defence of Gibraltar.”

“ That this House doth highly approve and ac-
 “ knowlege the services of the officers, soldiers, and
 “ sailors, lately employed in the defence of Gibraltar.

“ No army has ever been rewarded by higher na-
 “ tional honours, and it is well known how great and
 “ universal it is. Spontaneous were the rejoicings
 “ throughout the kingdom, upon the news of your
 “ gallant success. This must not only give inexpressible
 “ pleasure, but afford matter of triumph, to your dearest
 “ friends.

“ From an undoubted authority, the nations of
 “ Europe and other parts, are struck with admiration of
 “ your heroic behaviour ! Even our late resolute and
 “ determined antagonists, do not scruple to bestow the
 “ commendations due to such valour and perseverance.

“ I now most humbly congratulate you, on these
 “ united and brilliant testimonies of approbation ; a-
 “ midst such numerous and exalted tokens of applause,
 “ forgive me, faithful companions, if humbly I crave
 “ your kind acceptance of my grateful acknowledg-
 “ ments. I only presume to ask this favour, as having
 “ been a continual witness of your chearful submission
 “ to the greatest hardships : your matchless spirits and
 “ exertions, and on all occasions, your heroic contempt
 “ of every danger.”

After the governor had made the above speech, 43
 guns were fired, and 3 running fires by small arms, and
 3 huzzas by the soldiers. Then the governor left the

field, with his attendants ; and the grenadiers marched off, and assembled in one body near Ragged Staff ; and these on the sands marched into the town, and lined the streets, from the convent, or governour's quarters, to the king's bastion.

At 11 o'clock, the governour walked in procession to the convent, with his attendants, in manner following : First, in the front the 12th regiment's musicians ; a guard of the royal artillery ; and next, the first division of the field officers of the garrison, according to their seniority, two deep : Next the civil officers of the garrison, such as the store-keeper, clerks of the ordnance, and clerks of the victualling office ; the Surgeon-General and the chaplain of the garrison, all walking two deep : Next the quarter-master general, and adjutant general, the town major and his assistant. Then the second division of the field officers, followed by General Boyd, by himself, his Secretary bearing before him a velvet cushion, upon which lay his Majesty's order for investing General Elliot with the Order of Knight of the Bath.

Behind General Boyd, walked Major-General Picton of the 12th regiment ; and then Generals Boyd and Picton's aid de camps : Next the governor's secretary, bearing on a velvet cushion, a blue ribbon, encircling the governor's star. Then General Elliot, with the chief engineer (General Green,) and General de la Motte, commander in chief of the Hanoverian Brigade, upon his right and left : Next General Elliot's footman, and his aid de camp : Next Generals Green and de la Motte's aid de camps : Next the Colonels of the garrison, walking 2 deep. Then Brigadier General Rugby : Next a band of music, and then the last division of the field officers, followed by the officers of the navy and the commissioner, all walking 2 deep.

Then a band of music : Then the grenadiers marching with carried arms, 3 deep. The line upon each side of the street saluted them as they passed along ; drums beating, colours flying, and music playing. Upon the stage, in the center of the tent, General Elliot was knighted : And during the ceremony, the grenadiers fired a volley in the front, and 83 guns on the right of the tent, and 83 on the left of the tent, on the line wall, were fired. The lions upon the top of the center arch, bore the colours of the 12th regiment. The ceremony being over, the governor and his attendants walked in procession to the convent, in the same order as they walked to the bastion. At 8 o'clock in the evening, fire works began to be played off, on the top of the Spanish church ; the bastion was illuminated with 1500 lamps.

The Union Arms, Star and Garter, &c. were represented by fire, with the governor's name in the star, upon the center arch. A star burnt at South Port, but what was represented on the top of the Spanish church, I cannot give any authentic account of, as I could not get into town.

South Port gate was shut at sun set, and the wicket left open, which was so crowded, that I could not get within 10 yards of the gate : So I contented myself with returning to the South Parade, where numbers were standing, beholding the fire works at a distance. Innumerable rockets were thrown, and guns fired, but nothing else could we distinguish at so great a distance.

May 3d, The camp of St. Roch, by this time, was greatly diminished.

May 8th, Sailed out from Algaziers, 2 frigates, 5 xebecs, 7 brigs, 5 bomb ketches, 63 gun and mortar boats, besides a number of gallies, &c. in order to bombard Algiers. This attempt was to no purpose ; they

they were forced to retreat with disgrace and great loss.

May 11th, I satisfied my curiosity, by walking above 300 feet under ground in St. George's Cave, with lights. The entrance is about 6 feet wide, but in descending about 40 feet it is sufficient to contain 10000 men; in some places the roof is above 60 feet high; it is seemingly supported with pillars curiously carved: Some stones represent human shape, and others wild beasts.

It is impossible for me to describe this subterraneous place, for no man in Gibraltar ever got to the end of it.

About the first of May 1783, The strength of the garrison was 5756 effective men, and the usual guard consisted of 1 captain, 3 lieutenants, 17 serjeants, 1 corporal, 1 drummer, and 89 matrosses, of the royal artillery; Eight captains, 19 subalterns, 57 serjeants, 48 corporals, 14 drummers, and 761 privates.

The strength of the royal artillery, May 1, 1783, was 500 effective men: 12th regiment 466 men: 39th regiment 458: 56th regiment 463: 58th regiment 459: 72d regiment 815; in May 1783, but 684: 73d regiment 788: Sedows 344: Riden's regiment 338: De la Motte's 356: Artificers January 1782, 89: 97th regiment, 24th of March, 701. The 25th and 59th regiments are not included.

I cannot say that I have any thing else to mention extraordinary in Gibraltar. So I will conclude, begging leave to relate the particulars of my voyage home to England, and my journey to my native country.

The 72d or Royal Manchester volunteers, and the 73d, or 2d battalion of Lord M'Leod's highland regiment, embarked for England, at 9 o'clock in the morning.

July 6th, 1783, At 12 o'clock, wind N. N. E. we set sail: A thick fog came on about 3, and soon after the current drove us to the back of the rock.

Two

Two ships ran aground on the Barbary shore, but were got off safe next tide. During the night we were obliged to keep tinkling the bell, as a warning to other vessels to keep at a distance, running foul of one another in the fog.

The transports of the 72d regiment were the Resolution, Yarmouth, Nancy, Lively, and Jupiter; those of the 73d were the Fame, Whiff, Corfica, and the Regard brig. The allowance per week for 6 men was, 28 lb. of bread, 16 lb. of beef, 8 lb. of pork, 3 lb. of butter, 8 pints of pease, 12 pints of oatmeal, 2 of vinegar and 14 pints of rum.

Cleanliness in persons and births was strictly attended to. All hands were turned on deck every morning at day break; the men were divided into 2 watches, with a proportion of officers, one watch was constantly on deck 4 hours at once during the night. The births were frequently washed with vinegar, and the pitch pot often used to smoke betwixt decks. We kept all in very good health during our voyage, though much crowded, and had but a very small allowance of water; only 2 quarts per day.

July 7th, Bear E. wind N. E. clear the Straits.

July 8th, The wind changed to the N. W. stood a W. S. W. course upon the larboard tack 8 days.

Upon the 19th day, we put about on the starboard tack for a N. E. course and continued for 12 days.

July 26th, being the 21st day of our voyage, at half past 4 o'clock in the morning, bearing E. by N. wind W. N. W. we discovered land, being the Land's end in Cornwall, about 6 we stood a E. S. E. course; at half past 10 at night we altered our course; and stood W. N. W. 4 hours, and then tacked about and stood a N. E. course.

July 28. being the 24th day from Gibraltar, bearing E.

E. S. E. wind W. N. W. we discovered the isle of Wight at 5 o'clock in the afternoon; passed the Needles at 7, and anchored near Cowes at 8.

July 30. Weighed anchor and sailed into Spithead. The first thing remarkable that presented itself to our view was the masts of the Royal George, which partly stood then above water. Several efforts have been made to take up this vessel, but all to very little purpose.

Thus I have given a short account of our voyage homewards, and now we are arrived, and have God Almighty to thank, who preserved us in the midst of the greatest dangers.

August 5. we landed in England, and marched to Hillsea Barracks, where we were reviewed by General Conway.

We were received by the people in England with inexpressible joy, and treated with the greatest civility.

Our regiment being to be disbanded at Stirling, above 400 requested their discharge, besides those that were invalided, of which I was one.

August 11. we set out from Hillsea barracks, and arrived at London the 20th, having marched through Petersfield, Alton, Basingstoke, Bagshot, Stains, Hounslow and Brentford, taking but one stage per day.

Whereas my business required me to be in London 9 days, I satisfied my curiosity by visiting the most remarkable places, some of which I will endeavour to entertain my readers with.

The first place I had the curiosity to see, was the Tower by the Thames, which is a strong building, surrounded with a high wall, about a mile in compass, and a broad ditch, supplied with water out of the Thames. Round the outward wall are great guns planted, which on extraordinary occasions are fired. At the entrance, the first thing I saw was a collection of wild beasts, viz.

Lions,

Lions, Panthers, Tygers, &c. also Eagles and Vultures ; these are of no sort of use, and kept only for curiosity and show. I next went to the mint (which in the Tower observe) where we saw the manner of coining money, which is past my power to describe. From thence I was led to the jewel room, and saw the crown of England and other regalia, which are well worth seeing, and gave me a great deal of pleasure. The next is the horse armoury, a grand sight ; here are 15 of our English Monarchs on horseback, all dressed in rich armour, and attended by their guards ; but I think it is not so beautiful as the next thing we saw, which was the small armoury. This consists of pikes, muskets, swords, halberts and pistols sufficient, as they told me, for 60000 men ; and are all placed in such beautiful order, and in such different figures representing the Sun, Star and Garter, half moon, and such like, that I was much delighted with it ; and they are all kept clean, and make a most brilliant appearance. Hence we went and saw the train of artillery in the Grand Storehouse, which is filled with cannon and mortars. Here are also many curiosities but too tedious to mention, which having examined, I came away and went to the Monument, which was built in remembrance of the fire of London. It is a curious lofty pillar 200 feet high, and on the top a gallery, to which I went up by tedious winding stairs in the inside ; from this gallery I had a survey of the whole city, and there having feasted my eyes with the tops of houses, ships, and a multitude of boats on the river Thames, I came down and went to St. Paul's Cathedral, which is a magnificent pile, and stands on high ground near the center of the city. This noble building struck me with surprise, and is admired by the whole world, as well for its beautiful architecture, as height and magnitude ; it has a grand awful choir, chapel, a dome finely painted, repre-

representing the conversion of St. Paul, a whispering gallery, a grand organ, with many other curiosities too tedious to mention.

My next excursion was to Westminster abbey. This is really a magnificent antient building; but what most surpris'd me, was the vast number of beautiful monuments, and figures with which the inside is adorned. Among such as were pointed out to me as being remarkable, either for their costliness or beauty, I remember, were those of the Duke of Newcastle, a magnificent and expensive piece. Sir Isaac Newton, General Stanhope, and that exquisite statue of Shakespeare, which I am told is inimitable. When I had for some time enjoyed the pleasure of gazing at these, I was conducted into that part of the church where the royal monuments were placed. These, I thought, were exceeding grand. But nothing surpris'd me so much as King Henry the 7th's chapel, which for beauty and magnificence I am told far surpasses any thing of that kind in England, or even in Europe. Here too I saw the marble chair in which the Kings of England are crowned, which I believe is more regarded for its antiquity, and the honourable use it is assigned to, than for any great beauty it has, at least that I could discover.

The next sight that entertained me was the effigies of King William and Queen Mary in wax, as large as life, standing in their coronation robes, said to bear a great resemblance to the life. Queen Anne, the Dutchess of Richmond, the Duke of Buckingham, &c. all of the same composition, and richly dressed, are there also. In short there are so many curiosities contained in this venerable repository, that I cannot describe the half of them; among the monuments of our ancient Kings is that of Henry the 5th, whose effigy has lost its head,

which being of silver, I was told, was stolen in the civil wars.

Here are two coffins covered with velvet, in which are said to be the bodies of two ambassadors, detained here for debt, but what were their names, or what prince they served, I could not learn. My guide next shewed me the body of King Henry the 5th's Queen Catharine in an open coffin, who is said to have been a very beautiful princess : But whose shrivelled skin, resembling parchment discoloured, may now serve as a powerful antidote to that vanity with which frail beauty is apt to inspire its possessors. Among the waxen effigies, I had almost forgot to mention King Charles the 2d, and his faithful servant General Monk, whose furious aspect has something terrible in it. Not far from these is the figure of a lady, one of the maids of honour to Queen Elisabeth, who is said to have bled to death by only pricking her finger with a needle. I now returned to the monuments which are in the open part of the church, and free to every one's sight ; for those I have been last speaking of, are inclosed, and not to be seen without a small gratuity to the conductor ; among these then, on the north side, stands a magnificent monument erected to lady Carteret, for whose death some reports assign a cause something odd, viz. the late French King Lewis the 14th, saying, That a lady whom one of his nobles compared to lady Carteret, was handsomer than she.

Near this stands a monument of Lord Courcy ; next these follow a groupe of statesmen, warriors, musicians, &c.

I must now take notice of the poets whose monuments stand mostly contiguous.

Here are the ancient monuments of Chaucer and Spencer, with those of Ben Johnson, Draytown, Milton, Dryden

Dryden and Butler, the ingenious Philips, the divine Cowley, the harmonious Prior, and the inimitable Shakespeare, nor must I omit the gentle Mr John Gay. I must here end my remarks, but cannot take leave of this venerable place without observing that it has many curious windows; a noble choir, a fine organ, and a magnificent altar piece.

My business being dispatched, and my curiosity satisfied, I left London city August the 30th, and after a long journey of near 500 miles on foot, I arrived at Aberdeen in 16 days, having past through the following stage towns;

Highgate, Barnet, Hatfield, Stevenage, Baldock, Biggleswade, Ealon, Bugden, Walnesford, Stamford, Grantham, Newark, Tuxford, Redford, Bawtry, Doncaster, Ferry Bridge, Aberford, Wetherfby, Borough Bridge, Cattrick, Grenta Bridge, Bawes, Brough, Appleby, Penrith, Carlisle, Langtop, Langholm, Hawick, Selkirk, Bankhouse, Middleton, Edinburgh, Leith, Kinghorn, by water, Couper in Fife, Dundee and water, Arbroath, Montrose, Bervie, Stonehaven, Aberdeen; at which I arrived October the 5, 1783, after an absence of 4 years, 10 months and 8 days.

If these remarks and observations of mine should happen to fall into the hands of the learned, in all probability they shall be little esteemed; my apology to them in short is, I did not intend my book for their perusal; if they laugh at my rude and blunt manner, let them laugh on, perhaps if they had got as little education, and as little means of improvement as I have had, they would not have acquitted themselves much better. The honest farmer, and the drudging ploughman, may find entertainment in the foregoing pages, to help them to spend a long stormy winter evening. The hard-

ships

ships of a military life, as I have had occasion to mention them, may serve to reconcile them to their incessant returning labours, and lead them to bless God that they are, through divine providence, and the undaunted bravery of the armies and navy of their country, allowed to dwell in safety, every one under his own vine, and under his own fig tree ; to them my book is offered, they will not despise it because written by a common soldier, and void of the embellishments of learning and study. It will inspire the minds of their sons with a sense of British honour and British valour ; it will make them hold up their hands and say in wonder, What a brave man was Elliot ! what a noble garrison ! well did the French and Spaniards pay for their presumption.

It would be the height of ingratitude were I to pass unnoticed the generous friendship of my friends in the parish of Chapel of Garioch, who received me with greatest kindness, as one returned to them from the dead ; all my old acquaintance treat me with the strongest marks of friendship ; willing as I am to satisfy their innumerable questions concerning the siege, they wearied me with repeating to them the same thing over and over. In this book they may satisfy themselves. I was chiefly led to publish my remarks by the advice of some gentlemen, for whom I entertain a profound respect, one of whom took the trouble to read them over and correct some passages, and point out some other things which I had omitted. Another gentleman let me have the use of some books, which contain some observations on my subject ; to these gentlemen I am under many obligations.

The observations taken down in my journal book, had they been all inserted, would have swelled this book to a degree that would have raised the price considerably, and perhaps added but little material information ; for instance, I might have mentioned the names of many
brave

brave fellows that fell in the defence of the Fort ; tho' my readers no doubt would lament their deaths, yet a list of names would add little to their entertainment.

There is however one anecdote that I had almost forgot to mention ; it is this, in that very memorable morning of the 14th of September, so fatal to *Spanish* and *French* pride, when the men were wearied out with fatigue they were relieved by their fellow soldiers, and retired from action in order to recruit their strength by a little rest. I had in my turn retired from my gun and laid myself to sleep ; a short time after, one of my companions came to the place where I lay, pulled me by the arm and awoke me with these words, " get up, says he, and behold the most glorious sight ever was to be beheld. the floating batteries are at last done for, you'll see the French and Spaniards flying in the air like rooks."

Tho' no doubt their defeat was a joyful sight, yet I confess their melancholy fate gave me no pleasure.

About the time that the peace was upon the point of being concluded, an opinion prevailed at Gibraltar that the fort was to be ceded to the Spaniards ; it is not easy to conceive the murmurings and repinings of the garrison ; it hurt us all prodigiously to think that after the fatigues of such a blockade and siege ; after we had lost so many brave fellows in its defence, that what we had defended by the sword, should have been delivered to the Spaniards by the dash of a pen ; an universal discontent was visible in every countenance, nay some who had perhaps more courage and regard for the honour of Britain, than prudence, were little from saying that an order to evacuate the fort would not be pleasantly obeyed. However, our suspicions were not well founded ; this trophy of British valour still remains a bright gem in the crown of King George the III. and until the Spaniards be able to command the seas, which I hope will

will never be the case, and starve the garrison, they can have little prospect of getting it into their possession. Had they money to bestow, or could they find a British governor capable of being corrupted, then indeed they might have some chance of succeeding, but the unsullied honour of British commanders, and the poor pride of the Dons, are sufficient to remove every ground of fear with regard to corruption.

My readers may wish to know something more particular as to the brave governor, now Sir George Augustus Elliot, with a short account of this immortal hero, I shall conclude ; his character has been drawn by much abler pens than mine, learned men may write what they do not feel, but I feel much more than I can write ; a heart felt esteem and veneration of his virtues are imprinted on the hearts of every soldier who has witnessed his heroism, experienced his humanity, and shared in his glory.

A P P E N D I X.

GENERAL ELLIOT'S DISPATCHES.

Gibraltar, September 15, 1782.

THE enemy having collected his whole force by sea and land, forty-four sail of the line, besides three inferior two deckers ; ten battering ships, five bomb-ketches, several frigates and xebecs, a great number of gun and mortar boats, a large floating battery, many armed vessels, and near three hundred boats, purposely constructed for carrying troops :

Their land batteries mounted with above one hundred pieces

pieces of cannon, and an equal number of mortars and howitzers :

An army near forty thousand men :

On the 13th instant, at eight in the morning, all the battering ships, commanded by Don Buenventura Moreno, Rear-Admiral, were put in motion, and came forward to the several stations previously determined they should take up : The Admiral being placed upon the capital of the King's Bastion, the other ships extending three to the southward of the flag, as far as the Church Battery, five to the northward about the height of the Old Mole, and one a very little to the westward of the Admiral, by a quarter before ten, they were anchored in line, at the distance of about a thousand to twelve hundred yards. Immediately a heavy cannonade began from all the ships, supported by the cannon and mortars in the enemy's lines and approaches. At the same instant, our batteries opened with hot and cold shot from the guns, and shells from the howitzers and mortars. This firing continued, without intermission, on both sides, until noon, when that of the enemy from their ships seemed to slacken, although but little. About two o'clock the Admiral's ship was observed to smoke, as if on fire, and a few men busy upon the roof, searching for the cause. Our batteries never discontinued : The enemy's fire from the ships gradually decreased. About seven in the evening they fired from a few guns, and that only at intervals. At midnight the Admiral's ship was plainly discovered beginning to burn ; an hour after it was completely in flames : Eight more of the ships took fire in succession. Signals of distress being now made, the launches, feluccas, and boats of the whole fleet began to take out the men from on board the burning ships. Many shot were still fired from
those

those in which the flames had yet made no considerable progress; and the fire from the enemy's batteries on shore did not in the least diminish. Brigadier Curtis, who with his squadron of gun-boats, lay ready to take advantage of any favourable circumstance, left the New Mole at two o'clock, and about three formed a line upon the enemy's flank, advancing and firing with great order and expedition; which so astonished and disconcerted the enemy, that they fled precipitately with all their boats, abandoning the ships, in which some officers and numbers of their men, including many wounded, were left to perish. This unavoidably must have been their wretched fate, had they not been dragged from amidst the flames by the personal intrepidity of Brigadier Curtis, at the utmost hazard of his own life—a life invaluable to his Majesty's service. For some time I felt the utmost anguish, seeing his pinnace close to one of the largest ships at the instant she blew up, and spread her wreck to a vast extent all round. The black cloud of smoke being dispersed, I was again revived by the sight of the pinnace, little apprehending that the Brigadier was in the utmost danger of sinking, some pieces of timber having fallen into and pierced the boat (killing the boatswain, and wounding others of the men) scarce any hope left of reaching the shore. Providentially he was saved by stopping the hole with the seamen's jackets, until boats arrived to their relief.—One of our gun-boats was sunk at the same moment.

In the course of the day the remaining eight ships severally blew up with violent explosions; one only escaped the effect of our fire, which it was thought proper to burn, there being no possibility of preserving her.

The

The Admiral's flag remained flying on board his ship till she was totally consumed.

Your Lordship will be pleased to inform his Majesty, that the royal artillery, additional gunners, and marine brigade only could be employed on this service, which they executed with the deliberate coolness and precision of school practice, but their exertion was infinitely superior. The fire was incessant, and the batteries were abundantly supplied with ammunition ; every soldier in the garrison, not on duty, eagerly pressing to share in the honourable labours of the day. The enemy's daring attempt by sea was effectually defeated by the constant and well supported fire from our batteries ; but the well-timed, judicious, and spirited attack made by Captain Curtis, rendered this success a compleat victory.

The enemy's loss, killed, burnt, drowned, and wounded, must have been great indeed.

I am happy to say, my Lord, that notwithstanding the enemy's violent effort, our loss has not been great in numbers ; yet such gallant individuals must be ever regretted.

Captain Reeves, of the Royal Artillery, was the only officer killed, and is much to be lamented for his knowledge and constant unwearied attention to every duty. Our wounded officers will all do well ; and we are hopeful not to lose many of the soldiers.

The Duc de Crillon, a General of the highest reputation, having the chief command of the allied forces, Princes of the Royal blood of France, dignified characters of Europe, first nobility of Spain, and great military officers, being present with the besieging, an amazing concourse of spectators, that filled the camp, and covered the adjacent hills on this occasion, induce us to believe, the combined powers had formed the most sanguine expectations of success from their battering ships,

deemed perfect in design, completed by dint of prodigious labour, and unlimited profusion of expence ; and, by common report, pronounced invincible.

I am, my Lord, with respect,

Your most obedient and
most humble servant;

G. A. ELLIOT.

MEMOIRS of the LIFE and MILITARY SERVICES of Lieutenant-General ELLIOT.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS ELLIOT, the brave and gallant defender of Gibraltar, is the son of the late Sir Gilbert Elliot of Stobbs, in Roxburghshire. The ancient and honourable family of Elliot of Stobbs, as well as the collateral branch of Elliot of Minto, in the same county, and of Elliot of Port Elliot, in Cornwall, are originally from Normandy. Their Ancestor, M. Alliot, came over with William the conqueror, and held a distinguished rank in his army. There is a traditionary anecdote in the family relating to an honourable distinction in their coat, which, as it corresponds with history, bears the appearance of truth. When William set foot on the English land, he slipped and fell on the earth. He sprung up again and exclaimed that it was a happy omen—he had embraced the country of which he was to become the Lord. Upon this Alliot drew his sword, and swore by the honour of a soldier, that he would maintain at the hazard of his blood, the right of his Lord to the sovereignty of the earth which he had embraced. On the event of conquest, King William added to the arms of Alliot, which was a baton, or, on a field azure, the arm and sword as a crest, with the motto, *Per ignes, fortiter et recte.*

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We mention this as a curious fact delivered down and recorded as a memorial of their antiquity.

Sir Gilbert Elliot of Stobbs had nine sons and two daughters. The present General Elliot was the youngest son, and he is now the only surviving one. His eldest brother, Sir John Elliott, left the title and estate to his son, the present Sir Francis Elliot, who is therefore nephew to the General.

George Augustus Elliot was born about the year 1718, and received the first rudiments of his education under a private tutor retained at the family seat. At an early age he was sent to the university of Leyden, where he made a rapid progress in classical learning, and spoke with elegance and fluency the German and French languages. Being designed for a military life, he was sent from thence to the celebrated Ecole Royale du genie militaire, at La Ere in Picardy. This school was rendered the most famous in Europe by means of the great Vauban, under whom it was conducted. It is now under the management and care of the comte d'Houroville. Here it was that the foundation was laid of that knowledge of tactics in all its branches, and particularly in the arts of engineering and fortification, which has distinguished this officer since. He completed his military course on the continent by a tour, for the purpose of seeing in practice what he had been studying in theory. Prussia was the model for discipline, and he continued for some time as a volunteer in that service. Such were the steps taken by the young men of fashion in that day to accomplish themselves for the service of their country. Many of his contemporaries were then firmly engaged, nobly abandoning the enjoyments of ease and luxury at home, for the opportunity of seeing actual service.

Mr. Elliot returned, in the 17th year of his age, to his native

native country of Scotland, and was, in the same year, 1735, introduced by his father, Sir Gilbert, to Lieutenant Colonel Peers, of the 23d regiment of foot, or Royal Welsh Fuzileers, then lying in Edinburgh. Sir Gilbert presented him as a youth anxious to bear arms for his king and country. He was accordingly entered as a volunteer in that regiment, and continued for a twelve-month or more. At this time he gave a promise of his future military talents, and shewed that he was at least a soldier *au cœur*. From the 23d he went into the engineer corps at Woolwich, and made great progress in that study, until his uncle, Colonel Elliot, brought him in as adjutant of the second troop of horse grenadiers. In this situation he conducted himself with the most exemplary attention, and laid the foundation of that discipline which has rendered these two troops the finest corps of heavy cavalry in Europe, the Hanoverian body guards, and the musketeers of France not excepted.

With these troops he went upon service to Germany, in the war before last, and was with them in a variety of actions. At the battle of Dettingen he was wounded. In this corps he first bought the rank of Captain and Major, and afterwards purchased the lieutenant colonelcy from Colonel Brewerton, who succeeded to his uncle. On arriving at this rank he resigned his commission as an engineer which he had enjoyed along with his other rank, and in which service he had been actively employed very much to the advantage of his country. He had received instructions of the famous engineer Bellidor, and made himself completely master of the science of gunnery. Had he not disinterestedly resigned his rank in the engineer department, he would now, by regular progression, have been at the head of that corps.

Soon after this he was appointed aid de camp to King George II. and was already distinguished for his military

tary skill and discipline. In the year 1759 he quitted the second troop of horse grenadier guards, being selected to raise, form, and discipline the first regiment of light horse, called after him Elliot's. As soon as they were raised, and formed, he was appointed to the command of the cavalry in the expedition on the coast of France, with the rank of Brigadier General.

After this he passed into Germany, where he was employed on the staff, and greatly distinguished himself in a variety of movements, while his regiment displayed a strictness of discipline, an activity and enterprize, which gained them signal honour; and indeed they have been the pattern regiment, both in regard to discipline and appointment, to the many light dragoon troops that have since that period been raised in our service.

From Germany he was recalled for the purpose of being employed as second in command in the memorable expedition against the Havannah. It was possible to find an officer in the sunshine of the court to whom, under the patronage of a prince, the trappings of the chief command might be given: but an Elliot was wanting to act, as well as an Albemarle to shine, and for him they were forced to go to the dusty plains of Germany. The circumstances of that conquest are well known.

Our readers will pardon us for the recital of a short anecdote, which occurred immediately after the reduction, as it shews, that in the very heat and outrages of war, the General was not unmindful of the rights of humanity. He was particularly eminent among the conquerors of the Havannah, for his disinterested procedure, in checking the horrors of indiscriminate plunder. To him, therefore, appeals were most frequently made. A Frenchman, who had suffered greatly by the depredations of the soldiery, made application to him, and
begged

begged in bad English, that he would interfere to have his property restored. The petitioner's wife, who was present, a woman of great spirit, was angry at her husband for intercession, and said, "How can you ask, or expect, a favour from a man who comes designedly to plunder you!" The husband persisting in his application, his wife grew more loud in the censure, and said he was not a true Frenchman. The general, who was busy writing at the time, turned to the woman, and said, smiling, "Do not upbraid, Madam,—what your husband demands will be granted." The general was so very much pleased with the woman's spirit, that he not only procured them their property again, but also took pains to accommodate them in every respect.

This has been through life the manly characteristic of the General—if he would not suffer his troops to extend, for the sake of plunder, the ravage of war, he never impoverished them by unjust exactions. He never would consent that his quarter master's place should be sold, "not only, (says he,) because I think it the reward of an honest veteran soldier—but also, because I could not so directly exercise my authority in his dismissal, should he behave ill."

On the peace, his gallant regiment was reviewed by his Majesty in Hyde-park—when they presented to the King the standards which they had taken from the enemy. The King gratified with their high character, asked General Elliot what mark of his favour he could bestow on his regiment equal to their merits. He answered, that his regiment would be proud if his Majesty should think that by their services they were entitled to the distinction of *Royals*. It was accordingly made a royal regiment, with this flattering title, the 15th, or *King's* royal regiment of light dragoons. At the same time the King expressed a desire to confer a mark of his favour

favour on the brave General, but he declared, "that the honour and satisfaction of his Majesty's approbation of his services was his best reward."

During the peace he was not idle. His great talents in the curious branches of the military art, give him ample employment; and he was made commander in chief of the forces in Ireland. But he did not continue long on this station, not even long enough to unpack all his trunks; for finding that interferences were made by petty authority derogatory of his own, he resisted the practice with becoming spirit, and not chusing to disturb the government of the sister kingdom, on a matter personal to himself, he solicited to be recalled, and accordingly was so, when he was appointed to the command of Gibraltar, in a fortunate hour for the safety of that important fortress.

The system of his life, as well as his education, peculiarly qualified him for this trust. He is perhaps the most abstemious man of the age. His food is vegetables, and his drink water. He neither indulges himself in animal food nor wine. He never sleeps more than four hours at a time; so that he is up later and earlier than most other men. He has so inured himself to habits of hardiness, that things which are difficult and painful to other men, are to him his daily practice, and are rendered pleasant by use. It could not be easy to starve such a man into a surrender, nor easy to surprise him. His wants are easily supplied, and his watchfulness beyond precedent. The example of the commander in chief in a besieged garrison, has a most persuasive efficacy in forming the manners of the soldiery. Like him his brave followers came to regulate their lives by the most strict rules of discipline, before there arose a necessity for so doing; and severe exercise, with short diet, became habitual to them by their own choice.

The

The military system of discipline which he introduced, and the preparations which he made for his defence, were contrived with so much judgment, and executed with so much address, that he has been able with a handful of men to preserve his post against an attack, the constancy of which, even without the vigour, had been sufficient to exhaust any common set of men. Collected within himself, he has in no instance destroyed, by premature attacks, the labours which would cost the enemy time, patience, and expence to compleat; he has never spent his ammunition in useless parade, or in unimportant attacks. He has never relaxed from his discipline by the appearance of security, nor hazarded the lives of his garrison by wild experiment. By a cool and temperate demeanor he has maintained his station for three years of constant investment, in which all the powers of Spain were employed. All the eyes of Europe have been on his garrison, and his conduct has justly exalted him to a most elevated place in the military annals of the present day.

The General married a sister of the present Sir Francis Drake, and by her has had a son and a daughter. The son is now Lieutenant Colonel of the Inniskilling regiment of dragoons, and the daughter is married to Mr Fuller, of Bayly Park, in Suffex. His lady died about thirteen years ago, and her loss the General has not yet ceased to lament.—The General is now about his 64th year, but his temperate living has preserved to him his looks with great freshness.



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